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Hole In Iron Curtain

Thanks to a number of "well placed and courageous Russians," the United States knew just what to look for in Cuba when it learned that the Soviet Union was placing missiles there, according to Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Helms made the disclosure in his first public speech in five years as head of CIA. He spoke to the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He told them it would be unthinkable to conclude a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union without the means for monitoring compliance. Also, he told the editors that U.S. intelligence will have a major role on any international agreement to limit strategic arms.

On the Cuban missiles, Helms said thanks to U-2 photographs of the Soviet Union and to "a number of well placed and courageous Russians who helped us - including a wealth of information on Soviet Missile systems", the CIA had descriptions or photographs of the missiles, their transporters and other associated equipment, and characteristic sites in the Soviet Union. We knew what to look for.

One of our Russian informers was shot to death by a firing squad. There is no good reason to endanger others at this time, but we hope they have covered their activities so well that they will not be caught. The headlines that would tell the story could not possibly be worth their deaths.